REMARKS

Claims 6-10 remain pending.

Claim Objections

Claim 7 was objected to because there were two periods at the end of the sentence. Applicant has amended claim 7 to remove the second period at the end of the sentence.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 10 to clarify the configuration of the cuff relative to the connector. Claim 10 now specifies "...said cuff extends out of the inner end of said connector". Support for the this amendment comes from paragraph [0039] and Figure 6 of the published application (US 2004/0239001).

When using the description and Figure to interpret claim 10, it is clear what is being claimed. No limitations from the specification are being 'read into' the claim.

Entry and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by German DE 202 11 150 to Vohrer. Applicant notes that German DE 202 11 150 to Vohrer corresponds to United States Patent No. 6,971,414 and reference is made to the United States Patent herein. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Vohrer discloses a conduit comprising:

i) A metal hose with helical grooves (Col. 5, lines 51).

ii) A plastic hose disposed within the metal hose (Col. 5, line 52).

iii) A plastic jacket surrounding the exterior of the metal hose (Col. 5, line 60).

In the embodiment cited by the Examiner, the inner plastic hose is separated circumferentially from the metal hose (Col. 6, lines 29-31) and the end portion of the plastic hose extends outside the metal hose (Col. 5, lines 51-54).

A connector is then formed by injection moulding a suitable plastic circumferentially into the gap between the plastic hose and the metal hose (Col. 6, lines 39-45), onto the protruding portion of the plastic hose and onto a terminal section of the plastic jacket covering the metal hose (Col. 5, lines 62-67). The connector, as described in Vohrer, is formed during a **single** injection moulding process.

Vohrer clearly does not anticipate independent claim 6 and dependent claims 9-10. Independent method claim 6 clearly requires **two** separate injection moulding steps:

i) Injection moulding a [soft, flexible, rubber] cuff onto a conduit.

ii) Injection moulding a connector over the cuff, in such a manner that the connector does not contact the conduit beyond the cuff.

As described in the specification (paragraph [0045] of 2004/0239001 as published on December 2, 2004), the rubber cuff is formed from a material with "a low melting point, so that the over moulding process will not adversely effect the integrity of the conduit 29". As such, it is clear that the cuff is able to be injection moulded directly onto the conduit in as liquid or semi-

liquid state. It is then allowed to cool and solidify. The connector is subsequently moulded over the cuff, away from the main length of conduit.

The advantages in fabricating a connector by the claimed process are outlined in paragraph [0046]of 2004/0239001. In particular, the low melting point of the cuff material permits injection moulding of the cuff directly over the conduit. Additionally, as the material used to form the cuff is easily elastically deformable, the cuff provides stress isolation for the conduit by reducing force transmission.

In contrast, the connector component is not easily deformable (a functional requirement). As a result, the material used to form the connector requires a significantly higher melting point than the material used to form the cuff. Accordingly, injection moulding the connector directly over the conduit is not feasible, as the high temperatures involved would compromise the integrity of the conduit.

Therefore, Applicant submits that Vohrer does not anticipate and cannot be modified to render obvious the claimed invention. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 6 is requested.

Claims 7-10 are dependent upon claim 6 which Applicant submits is allowable. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 7-10 are allowable. Reconsideration and allowance is requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 3,963,856 to Carlson et al. in view of United States Patent No. 3,779,846 to Kleykamp et al. and United States Publication No. 2003/0236015 to Edirisuriya et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

The Examiner argued that the prior art discloses the following aspects:

- (Carlson) a method of forming a flexible conduit with a flattened end section to accommodate a connector.
- (Kleykamp) the use of rubber in coating a conduit.
- (Edirisuriya) a method of forming a connector by injection moulding over a conduit.

None of Carlson, Kleykamp or Edirisuriya disclose a **two step** over moulding process as claimed in claim 6. A conduit formed by any combination of these methods will not have the properties described above (with reference to paragraph [0046] of the published application).

None of Carlson, Kleykamp or Edirisuriya disclose fabricating a connector for a conduit by a two step injection moulding process. In particular, Carlson teaches away from such a process (Col. 4, lines 60-63) by suggesting that a pre-fabricated connector could be bonded adhesively or a "heat seal" formed between the connector and the conduit.

Therefore, Applicant submits that the method as claimed is not rendered obvious by None of Carlson, Kleykamp and Edirisuriya. Reconsideration and allowance of claim 6 is requested.

Claims 7-10 are dependent upon claim 6 which Applicant submits is allowable. Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 7-10 are allowable. Reconsideration and allowance is requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this Amendment, the Examiner is invited to contact one of the undersigned attorneys at (312) 704-1890.

Respectfully submitted,

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